

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of compounds that consist of combinations of ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substances with~~ A composition that comprises combinations of a ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance with a structure-specific substance, wherein the structure-specific substances, substance is such that its ~~whose~~ Brownian relaxation proceeds faster than its ~~the~~ Néelian relaxation under the measuring conditions for detection of an analyte or binding reaction by its double refraction behavior or relaxation behavior of double refraction in the composition ~~analytes or binding reactions using measurement of the relaxation of the double refraction or using measurement of the double refraction in the frequency range.~~

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the compounds that consist of combinations of ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substances with~~ A composition that comprises combinations of a ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance with a substance that is to be identified, wherein the substance that is ~~substances that are to be identified~~ is such that its, ~~whose~~ Brownian relaxation proceeds faster than its ~~the~~ Néelian relaxation under the measuring conditions for detection of a binding reaction by its double refraction behavior or relaxation behavior of double refraction in the composition ~~binding reactions using measurement of the relaxation of the double refraction or using measurement of the double refraction in the frequency range.~~

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the compounds in the process according to claims 1 to 14, wherein the compounds contain~~ A composition according to claim 19, wherein the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substances, whose substance's particle size is ~~lies~~ in the range of 1 nm to 100 μm.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of compounds in the process according to claims 1 to 14, wherein the compounds contain~~ A composition according to claim 19, wherein the

ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance is ~~substances that are~~ stabilized with a shell that ~~comprises an~~ consists of a oligomeric or polymeric carbohydrate, protein, peptide, nucleotide, surfactant, polymer and/or lipid ~~carbohydrates, proteins, peptides, nucleotides, surfactants, polymers and/or lipids.~~

23. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the compounds in the process according to~~ claims 1 to 14, wherein the compounds contain A composition according to claim 19, ~~wherein the~~ structure-specific substance is an antibody, antibody fragment, biotin, a substance that binds biotin, agonist that binds specifically to receptors or their antagonists, peptide, protein, receptor, enzyme, enzyme substrate, nucleotide, ribonucleic acid, deoxyribonucleic acid, carbohydrate, or lipoprotein ~~substances, which are antibodies, antibody fragments, biotin, or substances that bind biotin such as avidin or streptavidin, agonists that bind specifically to receptors or their antagonists, specific peptides and proteins, receptors, enzymes, enzyme substrates, nucleotides, ribonucleic acids, deoxyribonucleic acids, carbohydrates, or lipoproteins.~~

24-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a device for implementing the process according to one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the device contains a device for producing polarized light, An apparatus comprising a light polarizer, a device for receiving the that receives a sample, a device for magnetizing that magnetizes the sample with magnetic pulses or a magnetic field of variable frequency, as well as and an a device for analysis of analyzer that analyzes the polarization direction of polarized light, wherein said apparatus is capable of implementing a process for detecting an analyte or a binding reaction in a binding assay conducted in a sample labeled with a ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance comprising determining double refraction behavior or relaxation behavior of double refraction in the sample, and correlating said behavior with the presence of the analyte or binding reaction.~~

27. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a device~~ An apparatus according to claim 26, ~~wherein that contains an optical bank, a laser, a polarizer, an optical cell with containing the sample, an analyzer and a photodetector are arranged on an optical bank.~~

28. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a device~~ An apparatus according to claim 26 or 27, ~~wherein in addition,~~ further comprising a  $\lambda/4$ -plate is between the sample and the analyzer.

29. (New) A composition according to claim 20, wherein the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance's particle size is 1 nm to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

30. (New) A composition according to claim 20, wherein the ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance is stabilized with a shell that comprises an oligomeric or polymeric carbohydrate, protein, peptide, nucleotide, surfactant, polymer and/or lipid.

31. (New) A composition according to claim 20, wherein the substance that is to be identified is an antibody, antibody fragment, biotin, a substance that binds biotin, agonist that binds specifically to receptors or their antagonists, peptide, protein, receptor, enzyme, enzyme substrate, nucleotide, ribonucleic acid, deoxyribonucleic acid, carbohydrate, or lipoprotein